(c) and (d) In order to select the marker system Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Research and Development (R&D) Centre floated enquiries in 2004, to 7 parties to identify suitable marker systems. Out of these, 4 parties responded including M/s Authentix. The markers of the remaining companies were not considered by the oil industry as their markers were found to be deficient in some parameters. It was assessed by the oil industry thereafter that only the marker system of M/s Autihentix was found to meet all the requirements of Oil industry and the same was also evaluated at IOC's R&D centre.

(e) to (f) In order to facilitate indentifying more parties for supply of marker system, Research and Development wing of Indian Oil Corporation had issued a Global Expression of Interest (GEOI) in July 2008. Three parties offered their marker systems in response to the GEOI. These markers were tested and evaluated in the industry laboratories by OMCs. It was found out from the evaluation that none of three markers could meet 100% of the requirements of the industry. The OMCs are now working on the requirements to enable them to invite parties for finding a new efficient marker system, the formalities of which are likely to be completed by 31.03.2009

Supply of coal bed methane

193. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Essar Exploration & Products Ltd. (EEPL) has assured guaranteed supply of coal bed methane to one Matric Group who has submitted a proposal to set up brown field ammonia-urea complex at now closed Durgapur Plant of M/s Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. with coal bed methane as feedstock; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Essar Exploration & Products Ltd. (EEPL) has not submitted any proposal for supply of Coal Bed Methane to Matric Group.

Rural retail plan in UP

194. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to develop rural retail in a big way by modernizing and expanding domestic oil market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to develop this sector in Uttar Pradesh to improve the economy of this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has reported that IOC is developing its rural network as Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs) in the domestic rural market. As on 1.02.2009, IOC has 2420 KSKs all over the country. KSKs are set up as fuel stations and IOC provides basic equipments such as Dispensing Units, Tanks, etc. so that the fuel needs of the rural customer is met.